

REMARKS

The Applicants thank the Office for the careful consideration given to their application in the Office's communication mailed 11/02/2004. In that communication, the Office responded to Applicants' Appeal Brief with a non-final action. Claims 1-4, and 6 – 16 were pending.

Claims 1 – 2, 6 – 7, 9 – 12, and 15 – 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aoki et al (USPN 4,051,271) taken with Senjo et al. (USPN 4,034,470).

Claims 8 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aoki et al. taken with Senjo et al. and further in view of Helfritch et al. (USPN 5,695,616). Claims 3 and 13 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected claim base, but were otherwise allowable if rewritten.

Applicants in this communication have rewritten claims 3 and 13 in independent form, including all the limitations of the base claim and intervening claims. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the Office's objection to claims 3 and 13. The remaining claims are canceled without prejudice.

Applicants believe the application is in condition for allowance. The Office is encouraged to telephone the Applicants' attorney to resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: November 17, 2004
Reg. No.: 39,163